

Chuck Wexler

Chuck Wexler, appointed as the Executive Director of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) in 1993, leads a staff engaged in police and criminal justice research, management studies and consulting, publication of research findings, technical assistance, demonstration projects, and executive development and selection. PERF is a membership organization of law enforcement chiefs from the larger police agencies in the country. It was founded more than a quarter century ago by a number of chiefs who saw a need for an organization dedicated to progressive thinking about difficult issues in policing.

During his tenure at PERF, Wexler has been directly involved in numerous technical assistance, research and consulting projects to improve the delivery of police services. Examples of major projects include his work coordinating the development and implementation of a comprehensive anti-crime strategy in Minneapolis that is now a model for public-private cooperation. He has spearheaded an effort to candidly confront and discuss police-minority conflict and the controversy concerning racial profiling, resulting in a national meeting of major city chiefs and local leaders. He currently is involved in major projects in Chicago, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Kingston, Jamaica and the Middle East. In each of these projects his purpose is to more efficiently deliver policing services to the community. Most recently, he has been involved in PERF's analysis of the investigation into the Washington sniper incidents, serving as co-author of PERF's report, Managing Multijurisdictional Cases: Lessons Learned from the Sniper Investigation.

Prior to joining PERF, he worked as an assistant to the nation's first Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy where he identified exemplary local initiatives and helped craft national policy. He also headed the Professional Development Division of the International Association of Chiefs of Police where he designed a national program for the selection of police chiefs and revamped and broadened executive development programs for police executives.

A native of Boston, Wexler held a number of key positions in the Boston Police Department. As Operations Assistant to the Police Commissioner, he played a central role in the agency's management of racial violence in the wake of court-ordered desegregation of the Boston School System. He was also instrumental in the development and management of the Community Disorders Unit, which earned a national reputation for successfully prosecuting and preventing racially motivated crime.

Wexler serves as an evaluator for the Ford Foundation's Innovations in Government Project.

Wexler graduated from Boston University with a liberal arts degree. He earned a masters degree in criminology from Florida State University and a Ph.D. in urban studies and planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He has been an instructor at Bowdoin College and MIT.